

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1. NAME | | | | |
| COMMON: Blackford's Ford, Boteler's Ford | | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Packhorse Ford | | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Miller's Saw Mill Road | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Sharpsburg | | | | |
| STATE: Maryland | | COUNTY: Washington | | |
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| | | | | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____ | | | | |
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | | |
| OWNER'S NAME: (shore area only) U.S.A., National Park Service, C&O Canal National Historical Park | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box A, College Est. Sta. | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Frederick | | STATE: Maryland | | |
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown | | STATE: Maryland | | |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): | | | | |
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | STATE: | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| 7. DESCRIPTION | |
|--|--|
| CONDITION | (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |
| | (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | |
| <p>Packhorse Ford, also known as Blackford's Ford and Boteler's Ford is a crossing of the Potomac River about one half mile south of Maryland Route 34 in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated at a broad but shallow section of the river.</p> <p>Although there is no apparent physical evidence of the trail leading to the ford, its location is evidenced by terrain ideal for a crossing. The site is marked by a state Civil War commemorative sign briefly explaining the ford's significance.</p> <p>Land on the Maryland shore is in the possession of the U.S. government and is part of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The river belongs to the State of Maryland.</p> | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Packhorse Ford is significant for the role it played in transportation and settlement in colonial Maryland and Virginia. One of the earliest crossings of the Potomac, the ford was instrumental in the movement to frontier areas early in the 18th century.

As the population of Maryland and Virginia grew, the ford was replaced by a ferry operation a short distance upstream. Established by Thomas Van Swearingen before 1755, the ferry was purchased by John Blackford in 1816.

During the Civil War, Blackford's Ford was an important crossing for troops. Lee's Army retreated across the Potomac at this spot after the battle of Antietam.

Further information on the history of the ford is attached in a section of a paper entitled, "Three Aspects of Washington County's History," prepared for the Washington County Tourism Division, Hagerstown, Maryland, by Gerald I. Sword, December, 1972.

The importance of the Packhorse Ford as part of an early route to the south and west as well as its Civil War significance indicate that it is worthy of recognition at the national as well as state and local levels.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Green, Fletcher, M., Ed., Ferry Hill Plantation Journal, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1961.
 Rouse, Parke, Great Wagon Road: From Philadelphia to the South, New York: McGraw Hill, 1973.
 Sword, Gerald I., "Three Aspects of Washington County's History," prepared for the Washington County Tourism Division, December, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| | | | |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant | |
| ORGANIZATION Washington County Historic Sites Survey | DATE January, 1974 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown | STATE Maryland |

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____



WA-II-034

S.

Rev. John D. Lee

Resident Washington D. C. 1400 1st St. N.W.

June 1933